

NOT TRUE.

No Consolidation of Panama and Nicaragua Canal Companies.

Neither Has There Been Any Negotiations to That End.

The United States Government Has Given Nicaragua Canal Company Countenance—The Panama Canal Company Is a Private Business Corporation.

New York, March 18.—Mr. William Nelson Cromwell, the American counsel for the new Panama Canal Co., of Paris, referring to the recent statement to the effect that a consolidation of the Panama and Nicaraguan companies had been agreed upon, or was under negotiation, made the following statement: "I confirm the fact that I have just filed with Secretary of State Olney a formal declaration in behalf of the new Panama Canal Co., that there does not exist nor is there in contemplation any agreement, arrangement or plan for the consolidation or acquisition of the Panama company with, or by the Nicaragua company, under any form of ownership or control; and that there has not been any negotiation to that end. Without commenting in any way upon the Nicaragua project, my client unequivocally denies that there is any foundation in fact or in design for the rumors referred to.

"As the government of the United States has chartered the Maritime Canal Co. of Nicaragua, and has given it governmental countenance, it becomes our duty to advise this government of these facts, that there might be no possible misapprehension by the government and the people of the true position of the new Panama company. In view of these allusions to the new Panama Canal company, a few facts concerning it may be of interest.

"It was popularly supposed that the new Panama Canal Co., of Paris, is a governmental organization. This is an error. It is a private corporation, organized about two years ago under the general laws of the republic of France, just as any business corporation may be organized under the general laws of any state of our union, and which are open to all citizens alike, unsustained by governmental aid or patronage. It is to be distinguished from the old Panama Canal Co. in every sense. It is an entirely new and solvent association, taking over the concessions with adequate capital and different personnel. Its directory is composed of the representatives of the strongest financial institutions of France prosecuting the enterprise purely as a business undertaking.

"It is also a popular error to treat the company solely as a French enterprise. Being purely a private undertaking and having no political character, the people of the United States will be afforded fair opportunity for equal partnership. It is decided that the canal shall be neutralized, as was done in the case of the Suez. That is, the nations concerned in its operation may, by common agreement, make this a neutral waterway for the commerce of the world. Thus the United States can secure the great advantages of the canal without financial obligations or serious political responsibilities."

WHOLESALE STEALINGS.

The shortage of the late Paul Schultz amounts to over \$1,451,000. Besides leaving debts to the amount of \$1,500,000.

TACOMA, Wash., March 18.—Receiver Burleigh, of the Northern Pacific Co., has just made his report on the shortage of late Paul Schultz, who committed suicide over a year ago. The report is astounding. It shows that Schultz's stealings from the Northern Pacific alone amounted to \$142,000. He stole \$250,000 from the Yakima Investment Co., \$225,000 from the Spokane Realty syndicate and \$740,000 from the Tacoma Railroad and Motor Co., \$20,000 from Henry Villard, over \$78,000 from financial institutions and left personal debts of \$100,000 and a grand total of over \$1,500,000. He desired to control, conquer, develop, build up the northwest, to become what Cornelius Vanderbilt was to New York or Leland Stanford to California, and finally, when he had a large permanent income, to live in London and be known as one of the great financiers of the age. Schultz outlined this plan to friends, but finding himself hopelessly involved, he put a bullet in his brain.

The Battleship Oregon.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—The battleship Oregon is practically completed and ready to be turned over to the government. The big ship's guns are in place and everything is in order for a trial trip. The Oregon is the largest warship ever constructed on the Pacific coast. She is a vessel of the type of the Indiana and is one of the most powerful marine fighters in the world.

Fatal Natural Gas Explosion.

TOLLEDO, March 18.—A special from Dowling, an oil town in Wood county, says: The residence of Kirk Shelly here was wrecked by an explosion of natural gas Tuesday afternoon. His daughter, aged 16, sustained injuries from which she died in an hour. Shelly's son, aged 19, was fatally burned and the mother seriously injured.

Mr. Lease a Candidate.

WICHITA, Kan., March 18.—Mrs. Mary E. Lease Tuesday announced herself a candidate for the populist nomination for attorney general of Kansas. She has been engaged in a fight on Jerry Simpson, whom she charges with having traded populist principles for the "Loaves and Fishes."

Selected McKinley Delegates.

WATERBURY, Wis., March 18.—The second congressional district Tuesday selected R. M. La Follette and C. Mohr as delegates to the republican national convention with instructions to vote for McKinley.

RAILWAY WRECK.

Collision on the Pennsylvania Road—Two Men Killed and a Dozen Injured.

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 18.—The fast line express train east bound on the Pennsylvania railroad, which left this city at 3:45 o'clock Tuesday morning, ran into a live stock train near Steelton, a few miles east of here and caused a serious wreck. Two men were killed and a dozen were injured. The dead are:

Samuel Welsh, engineer; Lee Strouse, fireman; both of Philadelphia. They were in charge of the locomotive of the passenger train. The engineer was terribly scalded about the head, face and body, and died about nine o'clock. The fireman was crushed to death under the engine. Several of the passengers were slightly injured, but proceeded on their way after having their wounds dressed. The injured passengers at the hospital are:

Milbourn Fielding, aged 30, of Philadelphia, an electrician; abrasion of the right knee.

Peter D. Whitmore, of McKean county, Pa., returning to Sweden, a laborer; mild concussion of the body.

Harry Henson, of No. 1 East 11th street, New York, on his way from Pittsburgh, wound over the left eye and punctured wound on left knee.

John Van Heest, Philadelphia, punctured wound of the right leg and abrasion over the right ear.

W. R. Gracey, Philadelphia, abrasion of the nose.

James Costello, of McDonald Station, Pa., contusions and other injuries.

H. Kraus of Akron, O., internal injuries.

Van Heest and Gracey are pugilists. The cars caught fire and the uninjured passengers went to work with snow and prevented its spreading. The cars were broken to splinters and the track was blocked for a short time.

The wreck was caused by a misplaced switch, the stock train pulling out on the passenger, struck, and being struck sideways by the fast line which was composed of two day coaches, a Pullman sleeper and express car. The sleeping car was not much damaged.

Several of the injured who were at the hospital resumed their journey Tuesday afternoon.

COL. MERRITT DAY

Arrested in Boston at the instigation of Chief of Police Detsch, of Cincinnati. Boston, March 18.—Col. Merritt H. Day, of Rapid City, S. D., who was arrested in this city ten days ago as a fugitive from justice, at the instigation of Chief of Police Detsch of Cincinnati, left for Cincinnati Monday as the prisoner of Detective Ryan of that city. The colonel was in Boston in the interest of a placer mining company.

The charge against him is that in July, 1892, he induced two Cincinnati men, named Joseph Megraw and Joseph Rhodes to go into a concern called the Rapid Creek ranch. They claimed they lost their money in this transaction, and that the colonel falsely induced them to enter. The arrest was made on an indictment obtained at that time.

DIED TOGETHER.

A Bartender and Girl Found Dead in a Room in a New York Hotel.

New York, March 18.—Robert E. Herman, a German bartender aged 32, and Lizzie Gratter, 20 years of age, who was recently employed as a domestic, were found dead Tuesday night in a room in the Menlo hotel, 191 West Twenty-eighth street. Both had been shot through the head, behind the right ear, and to all appearances the man shot the woman, who from letters left by her had agreed with him that they should die together. In one of the letters the woman stated she was tired of life, had a nice young man and had been unlucky, and had concluded to die together.

IN KENTUCKY.

Jackson and Walling Taken to the Newport Jail—No Disturbance of Any Kind.

CINCINNATI, March 18.—Scott Jackson and Alonzo Walling, suspected murderers of Pearl Bryan, were removed from the jail in this city by Sheriff Plummer, of Newport, Ky., to the jail in that city Tuesday evening. The transfer was made quietly, no disturbance of any kind took place. A crowd of between three and four hundred surrounded the Newport jail when the prisoners arrived, but they were orderly. After getting a peep at the suspects, they quietly dispersed. There will be no attempt at lynching according to the outlook now.

A Match Between Greggains and Choyanski. SAN FRANCISCO, March 18.—"Parson" Davis has arranged an eight round contest between Alec Greggains, of this city, and Joe Choyanski, at present in New York. It will take place at the National Athletic club on April 16 for a purse, the amount of which is yet to be decided upon.

St. Patrick's Day in Philadelphia. PHILADELPHIA, March 18.—The loyal followers of St. Patrick did due honor to their patron saint Tuesday. The Ancient Order of Hibernians celebrated the day with a great street parade and over 4,000 showed their devotion by wading through streets deep in slush and water.

Dixon Wins in the Seventh Round. BOSTON, March 18.—In the glove contest between George Dixon and Jerry Marshall, in this city Tuesday night, Marshall gave up after the seventh round. Marshall's legs were too weak.

Maceo's Forces Defeated. MADRID, March 18.—A dispatch from Havana to the Imparcial says that Gen. Linarez has defeated Maceo's force near Candelaria, in the eastern part of the province of Pinar del Rio.

Three Killed by a Boiler Explosion. CALLEDONIA, Ala., March 18.—In a boiler explosion here Jim Watts, Albert Hollinger and Alex. Grace were killed. F. L. Delee had a leg broken.

Frozen to Death. ST. PETERSBURG, March 18.—During the recent snow storm in the province of Orel 180 persons were frozen to death in one night.

REBEL ARMY.

The Strength of the Insurgents is Close to 43,000.

The Cubans Estimate the Number of Men in the Field as High as 60,000.

Lack of Arms Prevent Many Cubans From Casting Their Lot With the Patriots—Two-Thirds of the Army Are Well Mounted and Half Well Armed.

(Correspondence of the United Press.)

HAVANA, March 14, via Tampa, Fla., March 18.—The present strength of the insurgent army is close to 43,000. Cubans themselves estimate the number of men in the field as high as 60,000, but even if unarmed camp followers, men in charge of provision trains, hospitals and camps were counted, it is doubtful if that number could be found actually in service. There are thousands of Cubans who would willingly cast their lot with the patriotic army, but lack of arms and ammunition prevents. The insurgent forces operate as a rule in zones or districts, and are organized on military lines. The columns of Gomez, Maceo, Lacerd and Bandera are, however, limited to no one province but pass from one to another under direct orders of Gomez. The commander-in-chief is now in Mantanzas, and the others have re-occupied Havana province.

The distribution of the insurgent forces according to provinces is: Havana, 10,500; Mantanzas, 8,000; Santa Clara, 6,500; Santiago, 5,500; Pinar del Rio, 3,500; Camaguey, 2,100. Total, 42,500.

In addition to the above there are innumerable local bands from 15 to 50 or even 100 men. These do not form a part of the fighting force and should not be counted as part of the army. Their chief functions are to carry out the orders of Gomez, prohibiting the grinding of cane, the movement of troops and supplies by rail, the shipment of provisions to cities, the suppression of "plateados," who rob, burn and commit other crimes. These small bands serve as recruiting agencies and when they grow too large for local operation they are attached to one of the army columns. Of the army proper, fully two-thirds are well mounted and about half are well armed. The others are armed with shot guns, revolvers, or only machetes. Some of Maceo's men have old style muzzle loading guns and lead is so scarce that telegraph wire chopped into short lengths is used for the charge. Spanish surgeons have on several occasions reported soldiers wounded with bits of wire. The insurgents have a few pieces of mountain cannon captured from government troops. There are perhaps a dozen of these guns which have been used with disastrous effect against the small wooden forts which Spanish troops have erected at various points. The Cuban army of liberation, as it is called, has grown to its present size in the face of almost insurmountable difficulties. From the beginning it has been outnumbered by the army of Spain, nevertheless it has escaped annihilation in many encounters when ammunition ran out. It has lived on forage, been almost constantly under fire, and is to-day a reckless, darddevil army with but one idea in view, and that is to free Cuba. What comes is not given a thought.

BANNOCK INDIANS.

Believed They Are Planning a Raid on the Jackson's Hole Country.

EVANSTON, Wyo., March 18.—The settlers in the upper portion of Uinta county, embracing the Jackson's Hole district, are very apprehensive of trouble with the Bannock Indians from the Fort Hall reservation. A number of them have received letters from people in the vicinity of the reservation to the effect that there is an organized plan on the part of the Bannocks to raid the Jackson's Hole country in the spring in order to be avenged for the arrest and killing of Indians in that section last summer by the settlers. The settlers are removing their families to a place of safety.

CURFEW ORDINANCE

Being Introduced Before City Councils Throughout the Country.

OMAHA, Neb., March 17.—The "Curfew" ordinance which is being introduced before city councils throughout the United States under the auspices of the Boys' and Girls' National Home and Employment association, passed in the city council here Tuesday night by a unanimous vote. The same ordinance has been adopted by Lincoln and South Omaha. It provides that children under 15 years of age, unless accompanied by a guardian, shall be at home after the hour of 8 p. m. during the winter and 9 p. m. during the summer months.

The News Confirmed. BOSTON, March 18.—A cablegram received by Rev. F. L. Piper, of this city, secretary of the American Advent Mission society, confirms the news of the loss of the steamer Matadi by an explosion of giant powder on the Congo river. The missionaries who lost their lives were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley S. Harvey, of Boston, and members of the Advent Christian church, and both missionaries of the American Advent Mission society. They had just started on their way back to America for rest.

Futile Attempt to Launch a Cruiser. LONDON, March 18.—An attempt was made Tuesday to launch the cruiser Dido, a vessel of 5,500 tons, which was built on the Clyde. The vessel struck at the foot of the ways, where she still remains, half in the water and half on land. She has a bad list to port.

Vessel Sunk—Crew Rescued. LEWES, Del., March 18.—During a dense fog, the Norwegian bark Slem, Capt. J. Jacobson, struck a submerged wreck on Fenwick Island shoal, and sank. The pilot boat W. W. Kerr took off the crew of 19 men and Capt. Jacobson's daughter.

CONDENSED NEWS

Gathered From All Parts of the Country by Telegraph.

The treasury gold reserve at the close of business Tuesday stood at \$127,544,110. The withdrawals for the day were \$137,500.

A special cable dispatch to the New York Herald from Rome says: The Pope will replace Cardinal Satolli by a personage of high distinction soon.

The republican convention of Latta county, Missouri, which adjourned Monday night, endorsed McKinley for president and George C. Crowther for congress.

A special from Mexico, Mo., says: The republican convention Tuesday endorsed McKinley for president and W. M. Treloar for re-election to congress.

The Dominion senate has passed a bill giving the Canada and Michigan Bridge and Tunnel Co. power to construct a bridge with a span of 1,100 feet across the Detroit river.

Special Customs Officer John Donney committed suicide at Port Huron, Mich., Tuesday noon by shooting himself in the forehead with a revolver. He has been suffering with grip.

At Los Angeles, Cal., "Kid" Thompson, one of the robbers of the Southern Pacific train at Roscoe station, about two years ago, was Tuesday sentenced to be hanged on May 22 next.

The Temps and Journal des Debats join the French chorus against the expedition, which it is generally believed, is simply a move on the part of Great Britain to solidify and make permanent her occupation of Egypt.

At Des Moines, Ia., the high school seniors were Tuesday suspended for wearing green ties. The class colors are green and white, and the class has been prohibited from wearing the same. The boys claim they wore the green in honor of St. Patrick.

The secretary of the interior has debarred from practice before the department and all its branches, Thomas G. Pike, an attorney of Laurel, Ind., on the ground that he was irregular in the execution of his pension vouchers and received illegal fees.

Chauncey M. Depew said Tuesday that there was no truth in the story that a representative of the Vanderbilt was making an inspection of the Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads with a view to their incorporation into the Vanderbilt system.

John Johnson, who was prominent as a colored politician of the levee and the owner of a saloon at 464 State street, Chicago, was shot and fatally wounded Tuesday morning in his saloon by Chas. Hinds, a creole from British Guiana. The tragedy was the result of a gambling dispute.

Discussions among the officers and men of the Seventh regiment, Illinois national guard, formerly the Hibernian rifles, reached a climax Tuesday, when the resignations of eleven officers were accepted by Adj. Gen. Hilton, and Col. Francis T. Colby retired from command of the regiment.

Forecast for Wednesday.

WASHINGTON, March 18.—Ohio—Increasing cloudiness, probably followed by rain or snow at night, variable winds, becoming northeasterly.

Indiana—Rain or snow in southwestern, increasing cloudiness, rain or snow in northeastern portion at night, winds becoming northeasterly.

Kentucky—Increasing cloudiness, with rain or snow, colder in extreme western portion; northwesterly winds.

THE MARKETS.

CINCINNATI, March 17. FLOUR—Spring patents, \$3.55@3.80; spring family, \$3.15@3.30; spring family, \$2.75@2.90; winter patents, \$3.40@3.55; winter family, \$2.95@3.10; extra, \$2.55@2.70; lower grade, \$2.00@2.25; rye, northwestern, \$2.55@2.65; do city, \$2.00@2.20.

WHEAT—No. 2 red continued nominally steady at 72c.

CORN—Sales: Mixed ear, track, 20c; No. 2 yellow, track, 19c; No. 2 mixed, track, 20c.

OATS—Sales: No. 2 white (choice), track, 24c; No. 2 mixed, track, 23c; sample mixed, track, 21c; No. 2 white, track, 24c.

RYE—Sales: No. 2, track, 41c.

HOGS—Select shippers' none select butchers, \$4.00@4.10; fair to good packers, \$3.93@4.05; fair to good light, \$3.85@4.00; common and roughs, \$3.00@3.90.

CATTLE—Fair to good shippers, \$5.00@5.10; choice, \$5.15@5.25; good to choice butchers, \$4.90@5.10; fair to medium butchers, \$4.50@4.80; common, \$3.50@3.90.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Sheep—Extras, \$3.00@3.25; good to choice, \$3.00@3.25; common to fair, \$2.00@2.75; Extras, 4.70@4.75; good to choice, 4.50@4.60; common to fair, \$3.00@3.15.

Veal Calves—Fair to good light, \$5.00@5.25; extra, \$5.00@5.25; common and large, \$3.00@3.75.

WOOL—Unwashed: Fine merino, per lb 35c; quarter blood clothing, 13c; medium decline and clothing, 12c; coarse 1c; medium combing, 11c; Washed: Fine merino, X to XX, per lb 13c; medium clothing, 16c; decline, fleece, 15c; long combing, 14c; quarter blood and low, 12c.

NEW YORK, March 17. WHEAT—No. 2 red March, 70 1/2-160; May, 69 1/2-7 1/2; June, 69c; July 68 1/2-160; September, 67 1/2-80c.

CORN—No. 2, 34 1/2-35c; May, 35 1/2-35c; July, 35c.

OATS—No. 2, western, 25 1/2-30c; May, 24c. TOLEDO, O., March 17. WHEAT—No. 2 red cash, 69 1/2c; May, 70 1/2c; July, 64c.

CORN—Nothing doing. OATS—No. 2 mixed May, 21 1/2c.

PITTSBURGH, March 17. CATTLE—Prime, \$4.35@4.40; good, \$4.10@4.30; rough fat, \$3.00@3.25; calves, heavy to thin, \$2.50@3.50; veal calves, \$3.50@4.00.

HOGS—Prime, \$4.10@4.25; best Yorkers, \$4.15@4.20; heavy hogs, \$4.00@4.10; roughs, \$3.00@3.75.

SHEEP—Prime, \$3.00@3.10; good, \$2.70@3.00; fair, \$2.50@2.75; choice lambs, \$4.00@4.50; common to good lambs, \$3.50@4.00.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 17. CATTLE—Poor to good fat cows, \$3.00; light steers, \$4.00@4.10; light to good steers, \$4.00@4.10; choice, \$4.00@4.10.

HOGS—Yorkers, \$4.15@4.20; pigs and light, \$4.15@4.20; mixed packers and medium, \$4.15@4.20; good to extra heavy, \$4.15@4.20.

SHEEP AND LAMBS—Good to choice mixed sheep, \$3.75@4.00; common to fair, \$3.25@3.50; prime lambs, \$4.00@4.10; good to choice, \$4.00@4.10; culls to fair, \$3.00@3.50.

CHICAGO, March 17. Calls on wheat opened at 61 1/2c, sold at 61 1/2c, last price 61 1/2c. Puts opened at 61 1/2c, sold at 61 1/2c, last price 61 1/2c. Calls on May corn opened at 29 1/2c, last price 29 1/2c. Puts opened at 29 1/2c, sold at 29 1/2c, last price 29 1/2c.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 17. CATTLE—Fat, well-finished steers, \$4.10@4.30; good to choice shipping and exports steers, \$3.00@3.25; common, \$2.50@3.00.

HOGS—Good to choice medium and heavy, \$4.00@4.10; mixed, \$4.00@4.05; good to choice lights, \$4.10@4.15.

SHEEP—Good to choice lambs, \$3.10@3.15; common lambs, \$2.00@2.50; good to choice sheep, \$1.75@2.00.

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